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Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Programme 2
Disarmament

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

2. Regulation 4.13 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as necessary to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 proposed in the annex are as follows: modification of subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 (paragraphs 2.11, 2.14, 2.16, 2.17, 2.19 and 2.23); and addition of a new paragraph 2.21 under subprogramme 3. The revisions to subprogrammes 2 and 3 reflect action taken by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/24 T and V of 29 November 2001 on multilateral cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and global efforts against terrorism and on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects as well as the changes to the programme narratives of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (Sect. 4) contained in annex I to General Assembly resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001.

4. The revisions proposed herein have not been reviewed by the United Nations Disarmament Commission, as the 2002 sessions of this intergovernmental body had not yet taken place at the time the present document was prepared.

5. The medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000 and issued as document A/55/6/Rev.1. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in documents A/56/6 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2 (Introduction, Sects. 1-

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33 and Income sects. 1-3). It was revised and approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/253 and 56/254 of 24 December 2001.

6. In the proposed revisions, new text to be inserted appears in boldface type, and text to be deleted appears in strikeout type. An explanation of the changes is provided in italic type within brackets.

Annex

Proposed revisions to programme 2, Disarmament

Subprogramme 1
Multilateral negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament

Indicators of achievement

2.11 Indicators of achievement would include:

(a) The degree of satisfaction expressed by Member States for **the efficiency and effectiveness of** the services provided by the Secretariat to the Conference on Disarmament, review conferences and other relevant meetings of States parties to multilateral agreements on disarmament [*General Assembly resolution 56/253, Annex I*];

(b) The effective and full implementation of the existing multilateral arms limitation and disarmament treaties by States parties;

(c) An increase in the number of applicants for the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme and wider representation of Member States in the Programme and greater support for the Disarmament Fellowship Programme by Member States.

Subprogramme 2
Weapons of mass destruction

2.14 In order to strengthen and consolidate existing treaties in the area of weapons of mass destruction, as mandated, the Branch will:

(a) Assist States parties and interested States in their efforts to achieve their full implementation of multilateral agreements related to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons;

(b) Promote confidence in the effectiveness of the treaty regimes;

(c) Enhance its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and international treaty organizations such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization;

(d) Assist Member States in their efforts in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to contributing to global efforts against terrorism. [*new mandate derived from General Assembly resolution 56/24 T*]

Expected accomplishments

2.16 The expected accomplishments would include:

(a) Facilitation of deliberations and negotiations on disarmament issues **and on matters** related to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, by Member States in a smooth and efficient manner; [*General Assembly resolution 56/253, annex I*]

(b) Greater awareness and understanding of States of new trends and developments on specific issues related to weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons;

(c) Enhanced multilateral cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation as a contribution to global efforts against terrorism. [*new mandate derived from General Assembly resolution 56/24 T*]

Indicators of achievement

2.17 Indicators of achievement would include:

(a) Satisfaction expressed by States parties for the assistance provided, **including substantive and organizational support, for the** ~~in fuller~~ implementation of agreements in the field of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons. **This would include sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference and ad hoc meetings;** [*General Assembly resolution 56/253, annex I*]

(b) Increased utilization by Member States and others in their deliberations of the information provided by the Branch;

(c) Increased and more efficient support to efforts aimed at eliminating weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons;

(d) Greater awareness of States of the close connection between progress in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and global efforts against terrorism. [*new mandate derived from General Assembly resolution 56/24 T*]

Subprogramme 3
Conventional arms (including practical disarmament measures)

Strategy

2.19 The subprogramme is implemented by the Conventional Arms (including Practical Disarmament Measures) Branch. In response to the concerns expressed by Member States and in accordance with the mandates given by those States, the Branch will carry out the following activities:

(a) Provide advice and assistance on issues related to conventional weapons, as well as on practical disarmament measures to States affected by the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of and illicit trafficking in and manufacture of small arms and light weapons, at their request;

(b) Promote cooperation and coordination, within the United Nations system, of strategies on small arms and light weapons, through the mechanism for Coordinating Action on Small Arms;

(c) Promote cooperation, collaboration and confidence-building measures among interested Member States in the field of conventional arms;

(d) Promote the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. [*new mandate derived from General Assembly resolution 56/24 V*]

2.21 The Branch will also, through expert group meetings and workshops, promote and facilitate the subregional, regional and international cooperation and coordination aimed at enhancing the capacity of States to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. [*new mandate derived from General Assembly resolution 56/24 V*]

Renumber old paragraphs 2.21 to 2.31 accordingly.

Indicators of achievement

2.23 [*old paragraph 2.22*] Indicators of achievement would include:

(a) Further development of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures and an increase in the number of Member States participating in them;

(b) An increase in the number of effective regional initiatives combating illicit trafficking of small arms;

(c) An increased number of requests by Member States for assistance in developing and implementing weapons collection and destruction programmes;

(d) Satisfaction expressed by States for the assistance provided in the implementation of conventional disarmament initiatives, including the Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. [*new mandate derived from General Assembly resolution 56/24 V*]